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MEMO TO FILE

RE: AUGER FARMERS MILL AND ELEVATOR SSI REASSESSMENT

DATE: 6/5/92

FROM: GARY L. KRUEGER *GLK*Site History

Auge Farmers Mill and Elevator (MND982067183) is an agribusiness facility located in Castle Rock, Dakota County, Minnesota. Grain storage, farm supplies and pesticide sales are the primary business. The Site was originally identified by the MPCA in the early 1980's because of reports of residential well contamination by pesticides. A preliminary assessment done by MPCA was done in 1986 which identified Auge Farmers Mill as a potential source of the contamination. The Site was given a high priority for a site investigation. Another site in Castle Rock which was also identified as a potential source of Ground Water contamination was the Castle Rock Chemical Company, a pesticide formulator and manufacturer.

It appears originally that the Castle Rock Pesticide Site (MND981196959) included both the Farmers Mill and Castle Rock Chemical Facility. Ecology and Environment was assigned to do a Screening Site Inspection on this Site in 1987. After completion of the SSI, a determination was made by EPA to split the site into the Farmers Mill and Castle Rock Pesticide Sites.

Samples were taken from on-site soils at both facilities and residential wells in the area. Samples analysis indicated contamination by pesticides in both surficial soil and residential wells. The Farmers Mill Site was given a high priority for future work.

Presently, the Castle Rock Ground Water Contamination Site is listed on the State's Permanent List of Priorities (PLP). The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) is the lead state agency on the site. Farmers Mill and Elevator has been identified as a potentially responsible party in regards to ground water contamination. The Castle Rock Chemical Company is also considered to be a potentially responsible party. Auge Farmers Mill and Elevator is still in business, while the Castle Rock Chemical Company is no longer in business.

In discussions with Dan Stoddard, MDA Hydrologist assigned to the Castle Rock Ground Water Contamination Site, Farmers Mill and Elevator has been somewhat cooperative with MDA under the State Agricultural Chemical Response and Reimbursement Account (ACRRA). This program is similar to the Petrofund program which reimburses persons for costs of investigation and cleanup of agricultural chemical contamination sites. Dan also said that State Superfund money might be needed for investigation of the Castle Rock Chemical Site and for possible cleanup at the Farmers Mill and Elevator.

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The Castle Rock GW Site was a site used by Channing Johnson in HRS II training last year, which MDA attended. At that time, the site did not score high enough to be eligible for inclusion on the NPL. This was however a training exercise and may not be a true indication of the Site's potential for NPL eligibility. There is also the question as to EPA's position on agricultural pesticide sites being included on the NPL.

Based on discussions with Dan and since MDA is the lead state agency on the site, staff are recommending that the Auge Farmers Mill and Elevator be designated as "No Further Remedial Action Planned" or "NFRAP" for MPCA and CERCLIS listing purposes. Should there be additional information obtained regarding extent of contamination at the site and determination by EPA that pesticide sites are appropriate for NPL inclusion, staff can review site information to determine if the Site(s) would be eligible for inclusion on the NPL.